



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Iran – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

December 31, 2003

BACKGROUND

- According to the U.S. Geological Survey, on December 26, 2003, at 05:27 am local time, an earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale struck southeastern Iran's Kerman Province. The epicenter of the earthquake, with a depth of 10 km, was near the city of Bam, 180 km southeast of the provincial capital of Kerman and 975 km southeast of Tehran.
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) reports that 100,000 to 120,000 people live in Bam and the surrounding villages, all of whom have been affected by the earthquake. According to the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), the Government of Iran (GOI) estimates that the earthquake has resulted in the deaths of 33,000 to 34,000 people, of which 28,000 are registered burials and 5,000 to 6,000 are unregistered burials. UN OCHA estimates that 30,000 others have been injured, of which 11,500 have been airlifted to other cities for medical treatment, according to the Ministry of Health. GOI officials report that 80 to 90 percent of houses were destroyed in the immediate area of Bam, and an estimated 70,000 residents are homeless.
- On December 27 and 28, according to Iranian news sources, an estimated 2,000 people were rescued from collapsed buildings. On December 28, the GOI and UN OCHA recommended ending the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) phase, and, on December 29, international USAR teams began to withdraw. On December 29, according to international media reports, machinery arrived in Bam to begin the process of burial and clean-up.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Population Killed (Estimate)	33,000 – 34,000	GOI
Total Population Injured (Estimate)	30,000	UN OCHA
Total Homeless (Estimate)	70,000	GOI

CURRENT SITUATION

Coordination

- According to UN OCHA, there is an urgent need for field coordination due to the large number of humanitarian activities. UN OCHA has dispatched a U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team to the area to assist in the coordination of relief efforts and began daily sectoral coordination meetings on December 30.
- Kerman Provincial authorities have established an office in Kerman to coordinate emergency operations and another office in Bam for liaising with humanitarian workers.
- The U.N. Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) in Tehran sent two teams to the area on December 26 to collect, verify, and compile information on the impact of the earthquake. The UNDMT consists of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), and the U.N. Development Program (UNDP).

Shelter

- According to UN OCHA, many displaced persons are relocating with family members, but other residents are sleeping outdoors in sub-freezing temperatures. On December 31, the GOI began to set up camps to accommodate the displaced and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. To date, the GOI has begun construction of at least three camps of 600 tents each. On January 1, the GOI plans to begin moving the displaced into the camps.

Health

- According to the USAID/DART, the earthquake destroyed two hospitals in Bam, and the remaining hospital is of limited value. The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has treated an estimated 30,000 people and has established a field hospital at Bam airport to house the critically injured while they await air transfer.

Power, water, and logistics

- On December 27, UN OCHA reported that the earthquake disrupted water, electricity, gas, and telephone services in the area. On December 31, the USAID/DART reported that 30 percent of the water service is functioning and 25-30 percent of the electricity has been restored.
- The USAID/DART reports that, according to a December 30 UNDAC situation report, the immediate priorities are garbage removal, heavy duty water pumps, field toilets, and soap.

Assessments

- Areas outside of Bam have sustained less damage, according to an International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) assessment team. On December 31, the IFRC established 50 teams of 4 people to conduct assessment in a 50km radius of Bam.

Security

- While the media has reported incidents of looting, the USAID/DART confirmed on December 31 that the security situation is stable. Since December 29, Iranian security forces have allowed only vehicles carrying humanitarian assistance and relief workers to enter Bam.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

- The 84-member USAID/DART team arrived in Bam on December 30. The USAID members include a Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader, Operations Coordinator, Planning Coordinator, Communications Officer, Information Officer, and Security Officer. Other components of the DART include the 11 member Fairfax County USAR Task Force and the 60 member International Medical/Surgical Response Team (IMSuRT) and 6 member Management Support Team (MST) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- On December 31, the USAID/DART set up its operations in Bam, met with members of the Ministry of Health, attended meetings for the coordination of humanitarian assistance, and met with Mercy Corps, Médecins Sans Frontières, and IFRC. The FEMA IMSuRT has set up a field hospital to assist earthquake victims. IMSuRT personnel will begin treating patients and conducting training on January 1.
- USAID/OFDA is sending two airlifts of relief commodities, consisting of 300 rolls of plastic sheeting and approximately 12,500 blankets, on December 31 at a total cost of \$175,000.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$600,000 to the IFRC in support of the Preliminary Appeal.
- According to the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), as of December 28, seven C-130s have airlifted approximately 68 metric tons (MT) of medical supplies, 2,000 blankets, 1,000 cases of bottled water, and a 10K forklift to assist in the offloading of relief commodities in Bam.

USAID/OFDA EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID	Logistics and commodities	Earthquake-affected regions	\$175,000
IFRC	Contribution to Preliminary Appeal for commodities	Earthquake-affected regions	\$600,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN.....			\$775,000

OTHER DONOR AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ASSISTANCE

- According to international media reports and UN OCHA, the following donors have pledged assistance, including monetary and non-food items, as of December 29: Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kenya, Luxemburg, Norway, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- The IFRC has dispatched an assessment and coordination team to the disaster site and released a preliminary appeal for \$12.3 million in funding, commodities, or services to assist 200,000 beneficiaries for six months.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their earthquake response efforts in Iran can be found in the “How Can I Help” section of www.usaid.gov/iran, or by calling (703) 276-1914. USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering services can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov → “Our Work” → “Humanitarian Assistance” → “Disaster Assistance” → “How Can I Help”
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - InterAction: www.interaction.org → “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.